

In the claims:

- 1-2. (Previously Canceled)
3. (currently amended) A method of providing compensation information over a communication network, the method comprising:
 - prompting, over the communication network, a user to select an indication of a job from a plurality of job categories;
 - receiving, over the communication network, a selection by the user of a job category;
 - retrieving, from a database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired compensation information corresponding to the selection by the user of the job category;
 - and
 - transmitting the desired compensation information to the user over the communication network;
 - prompting the user to select job comparison information;
 - receiving, over the communication network, a selection by the user of comparison information;
 - retrieving, from the database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired comparison compensation information corresponding to the selection by the user of the comparison information; and
 - transmitting the desired comparison compensation information to the user over the communication network in addition to the desired compensation information in a format for comparing the desired compensation information and the desired comparison compensation information.
4. (previously added) The method of claim 3 wherein the prompting includes prompting the user to select a job class from a list of job classes and to select a job from a list of jobs within the selected job class.
5. (previously added) The method of claim 3 wherein the prompting includes prompting for a geographic area of interest for the job.
6. (previously added) The method of claim 5 wherein the geographic area is one of

a postal code and a state/metropolitan area.

7. (previously added) The method of claim 6 wherein the prompting includes prompting the user to select from a list of state/metropolitan areas.

8. (previously added) The method of claim 3 further comprising providing a description of at least one job upon request by the user.

9. (previously added) The method of claim 3 wherein the compensation information comprises salary information.

10. (previously added) The method of claim 9 wherein the salary information comprises salary amounts of a plurality of percentiles of salaries associated with the job selected by the user.

11. (currently canceled)

12. (previously added) The method of claim 3 wherein the desired compensation information is transmitted in a format adapted for graphical display by a user device.

13. (previously added) The method of claim 3 further comprising transmitting, over the communication network to the user, indicia of links to job opportunities, the links being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job category.

14. (currently amended) A system for providing compensation information, the system comprising:

an interface module configured to provide prompts to a communication network for a user and to receive user-entered data from the network, the prompts including job data indicative of jobs, at least one prompt for the user to select at least a portion of the job data, and a prompt for selecting a geographic region, the user-entered data indicating at least a selected portion of the job data indicative of at least one job, and a selected geographic region;

a compensation module coupled to the interface module and configured to acquire compensation information corresponding to the at least a selected portion of the job data and to provide the compensation information to the interface module;

wherein the interface module is further configured to provide the compensation information from the compensation module to the network for the user; and

wherein the interface module is further configured to provide an opportunities link that is selectable by the user to connect the user via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity corresponding to the selected job data.

15. (previously added) The system of claim 14 wherein the at least one prompt for the user to select include prompts for job classes and jobs within the job classes.

16. (previously added) The system of claim 15 wherein the prompts for the job classes and the jobs within the job class are a list of selectable job class titles and lists of selectable job titles of jobs within the associated job classes, respectively.

17. (previously added) The system of claim 15 wherein the at least a portion of the job data prompted for the user to select is at least one of a job class title and a job title of a job within a job class.

18. (previously added) The system of claim 14 further comprising a database, coupled to the compensation module, that stores compensation information associated with at least one of job classes and job titles within the job classes, wherein the compensation module is configured to search the database and to retrieve the compensation information, corresponding to the job data for the at least one job, from the database in order to acquire the compensation information.

19. (previously added) The system of claim 14 wherein the user-entered data is indicative of one of a zip code and a state/metropolitan area to indicate the selected geographic region.

20. (previously added) The system of claim 19 wherein the prompts include a list of selectable state/metropolitan areas.

21. (previously added) The system of claim 14 wherein the interface module is configured to provide descriptions related to jobs.

22. (previously added) The system of claim 14 wherein the compensation information comprises salary information.

23. (previously added) The system of claim 22 wherein the salary information includes salary amounts of a plurality of percentiles of salaries associated with the job data.

24. (previously added) The system of claim 14 wherein the prompts include at least one comparison prompt for the user to select at least another portion of the job data indicative of at least another job for comparing the compensation information associated with the at least a portion of the job data with other compensation information associated with the at least another portion of the job data.

25. (previously added) The system of claim 24 wherein the at least one comparison prompt includes a prompt for the user to select other job data of at least one of a national average of compensation associated with a job of the at least a portion of the job data, the job of the at least a portion of the job data and a geographic location different than that of the at least a portion of the job data, and a geographic location and a job class of the at least a portion of the job data with a different job than that of the at least a portion of the job data.

26. (previously added) The system of claim 14 wherein the interface module and the compensation module comprise computer-readable instructions configured to be read by, and to control, a processor.

27. (currently amended) A method of providing compensation information over a packet-switched communication network, the method comprising:

prompting, over the communication network, a user to select a job class from a plurality of possible job classes;

receiving, over the communication network, a job class selection by the user;

prompting, over the communication network, the user to select a job title from a plurality of possible job titles associated with the selected job class;

receiving, over the communication network, a job title selection by the user;

prompting, over the communication network, the user to select a geographic region;

receiving, over the communication network, a geographic region selection by the user;

retrieving, from a database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired compensation information corresponding to the job class selection, job title selection, and geographic region selection; ~~and~~

transmitting the desired compensation information to the user over the communication network for graphical display by a user device; and

transmitting, over the communication network to the user, an indication of a link to an opportunity, the link being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity corresponding to the selected job class.

28. (previously added) The method of claim 27 wherein the compensation information comprises salary information.

29. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein the salary information comprises salary amounts of a plurality of percentiles of salaries associated with the job selected by the user.

30. (previously added) The method of claim 27 wherein the geographic area is one of a postal code and a state/metropolitan area.

31. (previously added) The method of claim 30 wherein the prompting includes prompting the user to select from a list of state/metropolitan areas.

32. (previously added) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
prompting the user to select job comparison information;
receiving, over the communication network, a comparison selection by the user of
comparison information;
retrieving, from the database containing compensation information associated with jobs,
desired comparison compensation information corresponding to the comparison selection; and
transmitting the desired comparison compensation information to the user over the
communication network in addition to the desired compensation information in a format for
comparing the desired compensation information and the desired comparison compensation
information.

33. (previously added) The method of claim 32 wherein prompting the user to select
job comparison information prompts the user to compare the desired compensation information
associated with the selected job class and selected job titles with at least one of a national
average compensation associated with the selected job class and job title, compensation for the
selected job class and job title associated with a different geographic region than the selected
geographic region, and compensation for the selected job class and the selected geographic
region with a different job title associated with the selected job class.

34. (new) The system of claim 14 wherein the opportunities link includes job
opportunities selectable by the user to connect the user via the communication network to
information relating to at least one job opportunity corresponding to the selected job data.

35. (new) The system of claim 14 wherein the opportunities link is provided to the
interface module adjacent to the displayed job data.

36. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the indication of a link includes a link to
a job opportunity, the link being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication
network to information relating to at least one job opportunity corresponding to the selected job
class.

37. (new) The method of claim 27 further comprising displaying the link to a job opportunity adjacent to the job class data.